



By Barbara Craydon

WAR is an athletic matter, even if it has seemed to cripple athletics so far as war time is concerned. So that there is no paradox in the fact that athletics have received an impetus while being restricted. For example, womenkind, under the inspiration of the discovery that women may actually rival men in physical expression, have plunged joyously into outdoor sports with a new kind of zeal. Not to the discarding of war work. No, indeed. On the contrary often as a natural recreation or relief of the tension brought on by war work and as a means of preparing for it.

For whatever reason there has been spirited rivalry in swimming. Incidents like the triumph of Miss Frances Cowells of Alameda, Cal., have

How Athletics and Hard Labor Are Revealing the Strength of Women

While Feminine Contestants Have Been Making Astonishing Records in the Water and in All Land Sports, the Girl in the Factory Has Had Even

More Notable Triumphs



One of the Astonishing Features of Wartime Work Has Been the Success of Women in Rough Industries. This Picture Shows Two Radcliffe College Girls at Work.

served to draw the eyes of even a war-stricken world. Miss Cowells did her 25-yard dash in 13 seconds, taking from her opponent the previous world's record of 14 2/5 seconds. Miss Cowells also won the 220-yard event in 2 minutes and 59 seconds, lowering by three-fifths of a second the previous American record. She set a new mark at 200 yards, her time here being 2:41:45.

The water successes of other aspirants such as Clare Galligan have utterly shattered the traditions as to any inferior position for women in sea contests. In fact, by evidences that are a real puzzle to students of physical development, women promise even a superiority to men in long-distance swimming.

In other sports there has been a weakening of traditions of another sort. The shooting of Mrs. Adolph Toppermeier, of San Antonio, Tex., has astonished the trap sportmen.

Working "Farmerette" Costume.



Mrs. Adolph Toppermeier of San Antonio, Texas, Only Woman Professional Trap Shot.

tonio, Tex., has astonished the trap sportmen. She is said to be as good as any man professional—she herself has entered the professional class. One of the gun prodigies who have attracted notice is Miss Lucile Muesel, of Green Bay, Wis. Miss Muesel is only 16 years old but there is nothing youthful in her shooting. Women who are ambitious are always resentful of the judgment that they do anything "as good as a man." But a girl of 16 only need not resent any inference in this phase.

From Sport to Labor

I might run through the records of other sports, but it might be hazardous at a time when so many men are drawn away by the war. It might be argued that women do not now meet the same competition. But I am not making merely a sports argument, at least not in the ordinary sense. I am eager only to contend that there are abundant evidences of a new status for women in physical expression, and that sports help illustrate it.

In other fields, in actual war and in the wide

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Miss Lucile Muesel, First in Women's Shooting Events at Green Bay, Wis.

field of war work, women have made a demonstration that may well astonish the world. "Not women's work" can never again be said. There is no such thing as a dividing line any longer. When you see women not merely driving ambulances but switch engines, when you see them not only making cartridges or guns, but working on warships, when you see them not only mining coal but laying bricks, forging horseshoes and riveting steel plates, you realize that the superstition about "physical limitations" has received a pretty hard knock.

"The people of England and France," says John W. Upp, of Schenectady, "have known for two or three years what we are just finding out—the fallacy of believing that women could not be trusted to handle intricate bits of machinery. It is fortunate that women can step into the places left vacant by the men, for while the government is steadily withdrawing the men from productive work, it is calling on the producers for more and more output."

The Triumph of English Women

"The English women have proved themselves marvellously efficient in all the departments of work made necessary by war," says Lady Reading, "and for which thousands, of course, have had no previous training, and, what is more, our women have shown wonderful physical endurance through it all. In all my varied experiences in war work I have yet to hear the first complaint from a British woman. Our women, of all classes, have met the tremendous readjustment of life without a murmur."

Frederic Martyn of the Foreign Legion even endorses the entrance of women into fighting itself. He says: "Can women fight? I think I can correctly answer that question, for I have had practical experience of women behind rifles. I have fought against, or side by side with, men of pretty nearly all nations, and of all shades of butter, snuff or ebony color, and I am firmly convinced that, as a fighter, the female of the species is more deadly than the male."

But I am thinking of labor rather than fighting and what it has proved with regard to women. Women have always done hard work. Because they did not do it with engines or in factories there grew up this tradition about her not being fit to handle tools and metals and intricate machines. The war has changed all our notions about such things. Look at them in overalls, in the shops and on the railroads. Is there any evidence that with proper training they cannot do all sorts



Frances Cowells, Winner of Many California Contests and Looking World Honors

of manual labor—or if not all sorts as near as may be said of anything like average men. Men as well as women require training for bodily labor. Farm work, for example, a class of work which has developed the famous and very useful "farmerette"—farm work "breaks the back" of the average man. Women have had to go slow. But they have gone. Thousands upon thousands have been doing farm work in this country, and doing it well. Most farm work, aside from the few things that call for exceptional muscular strength, calls simply for patience and endurance. Oddly it is in durance that women are outshining the great astonishment. She has a lot of endurance, the average woman, and the world is finding it out to her glory and to the profit of the world.

Women After the War

We shall soon begin to wonder, as they long ago began to wonder in England, as to what will be the results of all this upon social and domestic life when the war is over. May Wynne, writing in England of the great change in the position of women, says: "Presently she will pause to take breath and ask 'Where am I?' That won't be the war is over, for the women who have responded to that mighty cry of appeal have grit enough to stick to it, even if the world-war were to last for years. They mean to see it through, they mean to see it through well. If it lasts long enough the plough-woman will have learned to turn her furrows herself. The Amazons will, perhaps, be found along the line of trenches fighting shoulder to shoulder with their men. The woman refuses to see limitations on her horizon today, and the men are just too busy to argue. Besides, their voices would be drowned, for it would be, alas! a six-to-one argument, and the woman can still talk. Not that she gossips much as of yore; that is another thing in her favor."

"She has neither time nor breath. And, if men are wise, they will wait. Wait till the woman herself pauses without being called to a peremptory halt. Wait and let her see where she is. Then—the war over—if I am a true prophet she will turn her steps—home. She will be tired even of freedom. She will remember that she wanted to kick down every barrier sheltering her. She will want to go back. And, in the mean time we shall see, perhaps, that the walls will have been rebuilt on a different plan. There will be many women—so few men. And the war-woman has earned her rights nobly."

A "Parsec" Is a Long, Long Way

A "PARSEC" is a distance that the most zealous pedestrian would hardly care to walk before breakfast. In fact, it does not enter into the sphere of human operations at all, but it is a handy unit in astronomy. It is equal to 26,000,000,000,000 miles and is the distance traveled by light in 3.26 years. A few of the nearest stars are from one to five parsecs distant from us, but most of the stars that dot the sky are scores or hundreds of parsecs away.